



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 21 issue 5
web site: slbuddhist.org

May, 2015
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Three Things I Hate J.K. Hirano

Greater in battle than the man who would conquer a thousand-thousand men, is he who would conquer just one — himself. (Dhammapada Verse 103)

I hate finding dirty dishes filling up my sink in the middle of the night. The smell of it, the look of it, the remainders of a once enjoyable moment with my family, now reduced to a polluted pile, with the smell of negative discord. The pleasure of cooking and eating with my family has not lived up to its potential. It has now been reduced to this pile of polluted pots, pans, plates and utensils, slick with an orange colored sludge of leftover dishwater and grease.

My hatred is especially pungent after a meal that I have cooked for my wife and daughter, where I had once hoped for peace and family harmony is now, nothing more than dirty dishes, remnants and reminders of possible violence and war, when they were meant for harmony and peace.

The disharmony is in the arguments that float to the top, like the grease and sludge, when my wife complains the following morning that my daughter did not do the dishes the night before, as she had promised. Which is part of her agreed upon chores, for which we pay her an allowance of twenty-five dollars a week. When my wife complains, my daughter goes through her list of reasons for not doing the dishes. A stalemate: two countries deciding who is at fault. All of this, before I have even had my morning coffee. The two people I love most in the world have come to odds with one another, creating a domestic violence of sorts. This is the third on my list of the things I hate.

My number two object of hate at the moment is Tokyo Disneyland. It is also a combination of two things I deeply love, Disneyland and Japan. I love Disneyland with all its small town American glory and white washing. I joined Disney Vacation Club as soon as I became aware of it. My children have spent the majority of their Spring breaks in either Disneyland or Disney World. However, in Tokyo Disneyland, it felt as though I had fallen through Alice's proverbial rabbit hole into a Bizarro Japanese popcorn-scented Disneyland. My once innocent, childlike California Disneyland had been transformed into something out of my worst Japanese-American nightmares.

What happened to the Japan I had learned about from my parents and grandparents? Godzilla had once been a cute baby lizard and the irradiated environment had made him or her (I'm not sure of its gender) a terrifying earth-shaking monster. Tokyo Disneyland now manifested this monstrosity of the Japan from my mother's childhood memories having been irradiated and poisoned by our American bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to become Tokyo Disneyland.

The Japanese I had learned about and met were a proud people who honored tradition, personal, familial and societal obligations. Tokyo Disneyland was a mixture of Japanese ingenuity, American materialism and chutzpah melded with some of the garishness of other large metropolitan Asian cities, without any sense of Wabi or Sabi. However, the Japanese designers had been able to create an atmosphere that had a very Japanese orderly, homogeneous feel. For example, 16 flavors of popcorn such as butter and soy sauce flavor, sold in souvenir containers: the popcorn amounting to about the size of a small bag of American movie theatre popcorn, filled in a container shaped like a Santa Claus costume wearing squeaky alien from Toy Story costing about 30 American dollars, in various shapes and Disney characters. There was also a café created to look like Disney's Queen of Heart's court from Alice in Wonderland serving tonkatsu (fried pork) with rice and corn pottage soup.

In Tokyo Disneyland, grown men wear large hats in the shape of Olaf the Snowman from the movie Frozen. These grown men are dressed in business casual pants and shirts, with this large stuffed toy sitting on their heads. There were herds of strangely decorated teenage girls. I stood in line with freakish blonde and red haired effeminate men and hard, almost mannish women, with their genuine or imitation Louis Vuitton and Michael Kors bags hanging from their shoulders, wearing cheap five for twenty dollar ABC Hawaiian store souvenir T shirts. I could no longer imagine the grace I had learned from my mother, grandmothers and aunts, which I thought had been a part of their Japaneseness. The Tokyo style that some consider such a force in the fashion world is totally devoid among the masses of Japanese lower middle class and working poor.

Their fashion sense is for the most part an amalgam of cheap American souvenir tee shirts, sweatshirts, repro plaid shirts and ill-fitting discount store jeans. Although there is some sense of style, it is no more prevalent than that found in homogeneous ghettos elsewhere in the world. It is as though a Filipino ladyboy streetwalker and an American female wrestler or roller derby queen had miraculously spawned these Bizarro world creatures.

The men are combinations of Billy Idol, David Bowie and some eighties glam rock stars, looking like a rebel while politely standing in a 60 to 90 minute line to ride Dumbo the Elephant, while humming "It's a Small World" in a Japanese accent. In Tokyo Disneyland the sound track throughout the park was Christmas carols (this was in November during the "Christmas celebration"), Fourth of July John Phillip Sousa marches and Disney movie sound tracks. As an American, the lack of a sense of personal space by the Japanese and Asians in general was terrifying. It was suffocating and claustrophobic, but surprisingly without the body odor I had imagined this lack of space would create in America.

Taylor and I found a spot to watch the color show "Once Upon a Time" two hours before the show began. Within an hour, hundreds - maybe thousands - of people had packed around us, not unlike rush hour subways in Shibuya. These semi-zombified families staring at the lit Cinderella's castle in anticipation of the show about to begin, Taylor and I easily fit in as bit players in this Japanese version of the Walking Dead. Maybe, it is the "easily fit in" part that made me hate it so much.

The third thing I have come to hate and I don't think it is temporary, it is the Islamic State of ash-Sham (ISIS) or as our government calls it Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL). I think it should just be called Horrible. I don't know why the government calls it ISIL; it sounds like a hummus flavored popsicle. ISIS also represents two things I love: religion and social justice - but combined into a horrid, disgusting representation of religious freedom.

The Islam that I had studied in my graduate level "Religions of the World" classes was a religion of peace and love, the social justice was of the non-violent type, like Martin Luther King's March to Washington and the "I have a dream" speech. It isn't just the disgusting acts of violence that bother me. It is also the hate that this group's action creates within myself. The Dhammapada states,

"He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me,"— in those who harbour such thoughts hatred will never cease. "He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me," — in those who do not harbour such thoughts hatred will cease. For hatred does not cease by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by love, this is an old rule." Is this a path we can follow as a country?

When I feel the hatred grow within me, I realize how disturbing and disharmonious it feels inside me. Then I realize that ISIS is me. It is so easy to hate; it is so easy to see the ISIS members as "the other." As a Japanese American, I must recognize and remember World War II. The Japanese, who are a part of my heritage, committed unspeakable atrocities. My uncle was a kamikaze pilot who was willing to sacrifice his life to kill as many Americans as possible for the sake of his country. The Japanese invasion of Manchuria was just as violent and horrific as the beheadings of Christians in the Middle East.

The Dhammapada also states: *"Let us live happily then, not hating those who hate us! Among men who hate us let us dwell free from hatred!"* It is very easy for me to find things to hate, from my home and family, to people and places I visit, to the world we now live in. Hate is easy, but it's not always easy to love that which is different from the way I think things should be. Maybe this is the real seed of hatred: my ego. There isn't a whole lot I can do to make the situation with the dishes or Tokyo Disneyland go away. ISIS seems unimaginably beyond my personal abilities to control. However, I can work on reigning in my ego. I may not be able to get rid of it, but I can try. This may be the only thing I can do to lessen the hate in my world. Namo Amida Butsu.

Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) News

Elaine Endo

Nihonmatsuri was a success this year! Dedicated BWA, chicken cooking crew, and temple members worked tirelessly to ensure that the Salt Lake Buddhist temple was represented and the food was ready to sell – and boy did it sell! The chicken skewers and kalua pork slider plates sold out by 1:00. The kitchen crew continually made spam musubi all day and found it difficult to keep up with the demand. In the end, we sold over 650 spam musubi's and could have sold more. People LOVE their spam musubi! Thanks to all who gave up their time on Friday and Saturday to help make this event successful.

On Sunday, May 17, the BWA will be sponsoring a Food/Bake Sale in conjunction with the annual Parent's Day Service. Please help by making a delicious cooked or baked homemade item of your choice and packaging it ready to sell. Take your items to Terry Fujinami and Takeko Doi before service where they will be set up outside the hondo. Everyone always looks forward to purchasing these delicious goodies.

I am taking reservations for our annual Wendover bus trip in conjunction with the Ogden Temple on Sunday, June 28. The cost is \$20 which includes a free buffet and \$5 cash back. The bus will pick us up at the temple about 7:30 that morning with departure time from Wendover at about 5:00. We should get back to the temple that evening around 7:00. We have limited spots so please contact me as soon as possible with the number of seats you would like to reserve. We had a great time last year so please consider joining us.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 3 after service. Hope to see you all there.

Dharma School

Stephanie Sueoka & Sherrie Hayashi

It is hard to believe the end of another Dharma School year is almost here. The time seems to fly by and too soon it will be summer.

April 12th was Hanamatsuri. A hearty round of applause and kudos goes to **Tracy Akimoto-Roberson** for chairing the Hanamatsuri program. Special thanks to the **Dharma School students** for an amazing program led by our very lovely and talented M.C., **Haley Watanabe**. Teachers **Gina Mejia, Stephanie Sueoka, Judy Watanabe, Troy Watanabe**, and dance instructor **Tracy Akimoto Roberson**, spent a great deal of time and preparation working with the DS students. This year we had a special treat -- the very first performance of the **Salt Lake Taiko** group led by **Stan Hirai and Betty Yamashita**. Their hard work and practice was truly impressive. Thank you to **Dean Hirabayashi** for making the arrangements for our very special KFC lunch, and to all the **Dharma School parents** for bringing an amazing array of desserts to share.

The Dharma School Teachers Conference will be held the last week of April and **Stephanie Sueoka** will be attending and bringing back lots of great information and teaching tools from Los Angeles.

May is a very busy month for the Dharma School. On May 3rd, there will be a Dharma School Board meeting that morning at 9:00 a.m and a martial arts demonstration and bonsai class after service instead of classes. Saturday, **May 9th** is the **Nikkei Center** Lunch sponsored by Dharma School. **May 10th** is our **Gotan e & Hatsumairi** service with Bishop Ogui as our guest speaker. **May 17th** is **Parents Day**. The last day of regular Dharma School classes will be **May 31st** recognizing graduates and DS attendance awards. Please be sure to let us know if there are any graduates that should be recognized. There will be no Dharma School on May 24th because of the Memorial Day weekend. Lagoon Day with Ogden Buddhist Temple will be on **June 7th**. Please see Sherrie Hayashi or Stephanie Sueoka for discount Lagoon tickets and please bring a side dish or salad to share.

Infant Presentation (Hatsumairi) May 10

On Sunday May 18, we will be holding an infant presentation service. This service is for any child born into our Sangha over the past year. This service is to help begin the child's first steps along the Nembutsu path. The child is presented before the Buddha and the Sangha. They are presented with a gift from the Temple. Those interested please fill in the form and return it to Rev. Hirano

Infant's name
Date of birth
Parent's names
Address
Phone
Temple member Yes No

Special Award Winners

January: Shawna Kageyama Kim

February: Grace Matsumura

March: Shari Lee

Good Luck to everyone for the April drawing

May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 10, 10:00 am

Name	Date of Death	Next of kin
Akita, Sam Hideo	5/17/64	Janet Thomas
Aoki, Michio Mike	5/13/92	Sharon Carmichel
Atagi Tomi	5/26/89	June Seo
Fujii Fumiye	5/10	Masami Hayashi
Hirano Ikuye	5/10/88	Jerry Hirano
Hirano Kazuyo	5/31/92	Jerry Hirano
Iwasaki Tori	5/28/69	Paul Iwasaki
Minaga Taka	5/15/96	Mark Minaga
Miyake Mitsuyoshi	5/31/84	Jim Miyake
Moshizuki Kuniko	5/21/83	Takeo Mochizuki
Namba Jin	5/20/84	Kaz Namba
Ninomiya Tei	5/8/64	Ninomiya Family
Nishida Seiichi	5/15/64	Aiko Okada
Nishikawa Shigeru	5/18/98	Nancy Wayman
Nakahara Nancy	5/21/99	Lily Nakahara
Okino Masano	5/18/81	Imamura Family
Shiba Hideo	5/4/96	Ayako Shiba
Sueoka Kame	5/15/89	Dru Sueoka
Suzuki Saku	5/31/00	Yeiko Nagata
Tanaka Hiroshi	5/6/91	Masahiro Tanaka
Tsuyuki Yoshiko	5/27/91	Mark Tsuyuki
George Nakai	5/12/01	Maryanne Nakai
Haruo Nakagiri		Howard Nakagiri
Nishiye Sasaki	5/15/05	Shigeru Sasaki
Sumi Hattori	5/16/2006	Gary Koga
Ben Mayeda	5/20/07	Craige Mayeda
Helen Yoshinaga	5/2009	Rolen Yoshinaga
Roy Yoshinaga	5/27/2001	Rolen Yoshinaga
Brent Winward	5/25/2013	Tadao Winward
Linda Winward	5/28/2013	Tadao Winward

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

BCA members like you can help victims of this earthquake by giving to the BCA Endowment Foundation with a special contribution. All of your funds will be sent directly to the Kathmandu Hongwanji to assist Rev. Sonam Wandhi Bhutia and his members in their relief efforts.

“Please help Nepal and the Katmandu community in our time of suffering, The funds raised will be used to help all without regard to religion or ethnicity, since we are all part of the world community and feel strongly that we must help each other in times of need. Please be assured that all funds will be used for the restoration of the affected areas in Nepal and for only these purposes.”

-Reverend Sonam Wangdi Bhutia

Your gift, big or small, will make a lasting impact on those who need it most. You can send donations in the following ways:

1. Give directly to the Buddhist Churches of America by mail. Send a check payable to the *Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation Please note NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF in the memo section of your check.

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION 1710 OCTAVIA STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

(*The BCA Endowment Foundation is now collecting and distributing donations for the BCA)

- Give through the BCA website: Visit <http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org> and use

your credit card, debit card, or PayPal account to send a secure donation.

- Give through your local BCA temple or church

(checks should be made payable to your local temple or church). Donations made to the local temples and churches will be forwarded to the BCA Headquarters. Please send in your donations by JUNE 1, 2015. We thank you in advance for your support and Dana. P.S. For status updates about Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia and the Kathmandu Hongwanji's relief efforts, please visit the BCA website at www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org or join BCA's Facebook group [facebook.com/buddhistchurchesofamerica](https://www.facebook.com/buddhistchurchesofamerica). If you have any questions regarding this relief effort, please send inquiries to donate@bcahq.org.

Gotan E Seminar/Zenshin Meditation

Rev. Koshin Ogui

(Former Bishop of BCA)

May 9, 3:00 pm

Rev. Ogui will also be the guest speaker for our Gotan E service

2015 MARCH-APRIL DONATIONS

(March 23 – April 21, 2015)

Hoonko

Stephanie Sueoka 20

Ohigan

Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki 25 Kazuko Terasawa 35

Hanamatsuri

Tamiko Adachi	20	Bill & Shigeko Mizuno	50
Tom & Fran Akimoto	30	Asako Mori	30
Tracy Akimoto	25	Haruko & Mikio Moriyasu	50
May Akiyama	25	M.G. Sanathana & Surekha S. Murthy	500
Nobuo Aoki	50	Setsuko Nagata	50
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	50	Torao & Merry Nakagawa	50
Jeri Aramaki	25	Yosh Nakayama	25
Charlie & Susan Nagata Brown	50	Linda Oda	20
Aki & Neil Chow	20	Alice Ogura	25
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	50	Gary & Ryoko Okamoto	50
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	100	Grace Oshita	50
Richard & Lynne Doi	50	Dot Richeda	30
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	Jo Ryujin	25
Jim & Faye Eng	100	Jane Sakashita	50
Mits & Terry Fujinami	100	Donna Sato	25
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	200	Steven & Vanessa Shiba	100
Maxine Furubayashi	50	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	50
Mike Furubayashi	50	Jun Sudoko	40
Scott & Joy Furubayashi	25	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Tom & Kim Hattori	20	Stephanie Sueoka	20
Masami Hayashi	100	Bob Sugino	25
Dean Hirabayashi	20	Nancy Takagi	25
Max & Kathleen Hirabayashi	30	Nanae Taketa	50
Rev. Jerry and Carmela Hirano	100	Kazuko Terasawa	35
Lisa Imamura	50	Chiyoko Terashima	25
Sandy Iwasaki	30	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Lisa Joko	25	Cindy Yamada Thomas	50
Joseph & Rose Kamaya	50	Sachiko Tohinaka	20
Bob Kasubuchi	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	100
Brent & Sherrie Koga	40	Yoshiko Uno	25
Jeanne Konishi	50	Ivan VanLaningham	100
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	25	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50
Steven & Rae Louie	40	Troy & Judy Watanabe	40
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	25	Kazuko Yakumo	50
Hisako Minaga	20	Rolen & Dawn Yoshinaga	50
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Charlie Sasaki	20
Helen Mitsunaga	50	anonymous	20
Reiko Mitsunaga	25	anonymous	10
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	anonymous	10
Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	50		

Shotsuki Hoyo

Nobuo Aoki 50
 Hisako Minaga 50
 Charlie Sasaki 20
 Nanae Taketa 25
 Helen Mitsunaga, Arlene Imada Wade 40
 Craige Mayeda 50
 Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki 25
 Jane Sakashita 25
 Tom & Fran Akimoto 60
 Mark & Gail Minaga 25
 Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya 50
 Tracy Akimoto 25
 Gary & Kathleen Takenaka 100
 Jeanne Konishi 50
 Stephanie Sueoka 20
 Nancy Takagi 25
 Lynn & Marilyn Shimada 25
 Tamiko Adachi 25
 Tracy Akimoto 25
 Andrew & Courtney Boyer 20
 Stephanie Hattori 20
 Tom & Kim Hattori 25
 Helen Mitsunaga 25
 Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 30
 Robert & Tami Tokita 25
 Lynn & Marilyn Shimada 25

In Memory Of:

Shizuko Imada 40
 Ben Mayeda 50
 George Sakashita 25
 George Sakashita 25
 Kenneth Akiyama & Chotaro Matsuura 60
 Kozo Minaga 25
 Kozo Minaga 50
 Landon Nobumasa Akimoto 25
 Lois Crook 100
 Mrs. T. Konishi 50
 Ruju Runimoto 20
 S. Hachisuka 25
 Shige Shimada 25
 Shizue Adachi 25
 Shizue Adachi 25
 Shizue Adachi 20
 Shizue Adachi 20
 Shizue Adachi 20
 Shizue Adachi 25
 Shizuko Mitsunaga 25
 Shizuko Mitsunaga 30
 Shizuko Mitsunaga 25
 Tai Oishi 25

Dharma School

Jun Sudoko 25
 Ernie & Laverne Kyed 20 Bowling Party
 Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki 60 Goodie bag
 Ruby Doi 20 Goodie bag
 Tomiye Ishimatsu 50 Goodie bag
 Jane Sakashita 20 Goodie bag
 Shizue Shiba 20 Goodie bag

Nokotsudo

Hisako Minaga 50 Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya 50

Temple General

Ivan VanLaningham 100
 Nikkei Senior Center 30
 Rodon Foods 200 parking
 Osamu Hideshima 200
 Orbital ATK Employee Citizenship Fund 520 Employer matching contribution, Ernie Kyed
 Cash 102 Hanamatsuri flower donations
 Jean Shiba 30 In memory of Kuniko Okuda

Kazuko Terasawa	20	In memory of Misao & Elsie Doi
Joe & Mariko Kuwahara	25	In memory of Shizuko Mitsunaga
Dale & Julie Suda	100	In memory of Tosh Iwasaki, from Julie Suda & Denny Sekino
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno
Thomas Endo	100	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno
Tadashi & Keiko Fukushima	30	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno
David & Judy Kawabata	30	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno
Fumio Mayeda	50	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	20	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno
Frank Nakashima	20	In memory of Yuriko Matsuno, For Herb & Joyce Matsuno
Hisako Minaga	100	Kozo Minaga 5 Year Memorial

2015 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

These members contributed \$1200 per member in this new membership category.

Richard & Lynne Doi	Dot Richeda
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Dave Sekino
Craige Mayeda	Kathy Terashima
Reiko Mitsunaga	Ivan VanLaningham
Kenneth Nodzu	

2015 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

(Received March 23 – April 21, kids not listed)

Rolen & Dawn Yoshinaga	Mike Furubayashi
Will & Gina Mejia	

JUNE BOOK CLUB

“The Rosie Project” by Graeme Simsion

**Monday, June 1, 7 p.m.
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
West Wing, 100 S. 215 W.**

The unlikely couple – socially inept brilliant nerd and tough street-smart girl – brought together by scientific method gone awry.

The book may be purchased in Lumbini’s Garden Bookstore

The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Sangha embraces the
LGBTQ Community.

Show support and march with us at the 2015 Utah Pride Parade on Sunday, June 7. Meet at Temple front steps @ 8:30 a.m.